



LINCOLN CHAFEE

U.S. SENATOR

RHODE ISLAND

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CHAFEE ANNOUNCES \$1.1 MILLION IN LIHEAP FUNDING FOR RHODE ISLAND

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Lincoln Chafee today announced a \$1.1 million grant award to Rhode Island under the Residential Energy Assistance Challenge (REACH) Options Program, a part of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

Awarded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the fiscal year 2005 allocation will assist eligible families in paying the costs of heating and insulating their homes in the winter. The REACH program is specifically designed to help low-income households reduce their energy vulnerability.

“Rhode Islanders face some of the Nation’s most expensive burdens in meeting their home heating needs. As winter approaches, I am very pleased to announce this award, which will begin to help Rhode Island residents meet these needs. The president, however, must recognize the urgency of our current energy situation and take the appropriate steps to provide a significant increase in assistance funding,” Senator Chafee said.

Senator Chafee has been a constant advocate for the release of additional LIHEAP funding, recently writing President Bush and Senate Majority Leader Frist requesting \$900 million in emergency funding as part of a comprehensive appropriations package addressing the impacts of Hurricane Katrina. In addition, he joined a bipartisan group of Senators in writing a letter to Senate Committee on the Budget Chairman Judd Gregg and Ranking Member Kent Conrad, requesting \$3 billion to fund the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) as part of the fiscal year 2006 budget. Chafee also requested that the allocation provide for advance funding for fiscal year 2007 to pre-purchase fuel and start planning for the winter heating season in the spring and early summer.

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